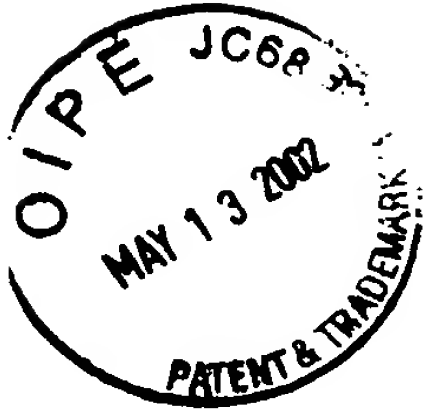


**PATENT  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



Applicants: B.J. Hopkins, et al.

Serial No.: 09/608,303

Filed: June 30, 2000

For: UNIVERSAL CONNECTOR

Group Art Unit: 2833

Examiner: M. Kirk

Attorney Docket No.: 6707.US.O1

Date: May 3, 2002

**Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR §1.8(a):**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
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Date Of Deposit: May 3, 2002

*Michele M. Bonke*  
Michele M. Bonke

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is the Information Disclosure Statement of B.J. Hopkins, et al., for UNIVERSAL CONNECTOR, filed June 30, 2000.

Also enclosed are: **USPTO Form 1449 - 1 page (in duplicate)**  
Copy of The PCT Search Report  
Copies of 7 references  
Return-receipt Postcard

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional Filing Fees required under 37 CFR 1.16, as well as any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 associated with this communication for which full payment had not been tendered, to Deposit Account No. 01-0025.  
**A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.**



23492

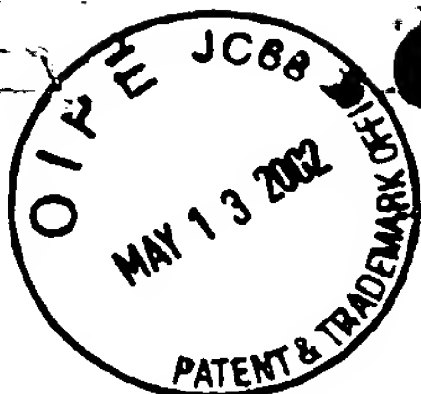
ABBOTT LABORATORIES  
Telephone: (847) 937-6182  
Facsimile: (847) 938-2623

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian J. Hopkins, et al.

*David L. Weinstein*  
David L. Weinstein  
Registration No. 28, 128  
Attorney for Applicants

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Certificate of Mailing (37 CFR 1.8(a))

Applicants: Brian J. Hopkins, et al.

Serial No.: 09/608,303

Filed: June 30, 2000

Title: UNIVERSAL CONNECTOR

Group Art: 2833

Examiner: M. Kirk

Case No.: 6707.US.O1

May 3, 2002

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231, on:

Date of Deposit: May 3, 2002

*Michele M. Bonke*  
Michele M. Bonke

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed, to the knowledge of the undersigned, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Applicants respectfully petition and request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence such consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form. Copies of the listed documents are attached.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists, and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art". If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

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ABBOTT LABORATORIES  
Telephone: (847) 937-6182  
Facsimile: (847) 938-2623

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian J. Hopkins, et al.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David L. Weinstein", written in black ink over a horizontal line.

David L. Weinstein, et al.  
Registration No. 28, 128  
Attorney for Applicants

MAY 23 2002

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